



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Adress: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/571,318	03/09/2006	Dietmar Koopmann	P71090US0	8364
136	7590	01/23/2009	EXAMINER	
JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC			CHIEN, YUAN L	
400 SEVENTH STREET N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 600				2854
WASHINGTON, DC 20004			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/23/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/571,318	Applicant(s) KOOPMANN ET AL.
	Examiner Yuan L. Chen	Art Unit 2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 3/9/2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alois Thole (Patent No.: GB 2327252).

With respect to Claim 1, Thole discloses in Fig. 1 and page 4 lines 7 – 10 and page 5 lines 4 – 11: a printing unit having

at least one replaceable roller mandrel (1) of at least one of a printing roller (page 1 line 4) or anilox roller, which is mountable on one (right) end thereof,

a coupling device (4), which receives a front-side coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) of the roller mandrel (1) on a receiving location (11) of the coupling device and transmits a torque required for rotating (braced together, see page 5 line 4) the roller mandrel (1) thereto,

the coupling device (4) and the roller mandrel (1) being configured in such that the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) of the roller mandrel (1) is brought to the receiving location (11) of the coupling device (4) through an axial (the only direction to slide in page 5 line 10) movement of the roller mandrel (1), at least one of the roller mandrel (1) at the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) and the coupling device (4) at the receiving location (11) tapering (page 4 lines 7 - 10) in an axial direction of the roller mandrel (1).

With respect to Claim 2, Thole also discloses in page 5 lines 4 - 11: wherein at least one of the roller mandrel (1) at the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) and the coupling device (4) at the receiving location (11) tapers (page 5 line 7) conically (page 4 line 5) in the axial direction (the only direction to slide) of the roller mandrel (1).

With respect to Claim 3, Thole also discloses in page 5 line 1 and lines 4 - 7: wherein the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) of the roller mandrel (1) tapers and is located at one end (23) of the roller mandrel (1).

With respect to Claim 4, Thole also discloses in Fig. 1 and page 4 lines 23 - 28: wherein the coupling device (4), which occupies the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) of the roller mandrel at the receiving location (11) of the coupling device

(4) clasps a bearing journal (15) with a fastener (17) that engages in the radial direction centrally (page 4 line 23) at the end (23) of the roller mandrel (1).

With respect to Claim 5, this claim is rejected as the same reason applied to Claim 3.

With respect to Claims 6 and 7, these claims are rejected as the same reason applied to Claim 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 8 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Thole.

With respect to Claim 8, AAPA (Fig. 1 and page 3 – 4 of the Specification) discloses:

a printing unit comprising:

at least one replaceable roller mandrel (5) of at least one of a printing roller (4) or anilox roller, which is mountable on one end thereof,

a coupling device (7) which receives on a receiving location (13) thereof a front-side coupling location of the roller mandrel (5) and transmits thereto through a driving gear wheel (8) a torque required for rotating the roller mandrel (5),

the coupling device (7) and the roller mandrel (5) being configured in such that the coupling location of the roller mandrel (5) is movable to the receiving location (13) of the coupling device (7) through an axial (A) movement of the roller mandrel (5), and

the driving gear wheel (8) including a borehole (at 14) having a diameter which chamfered (14).

AAPA does not teach the roller mandrel (5) at the coupling location having a taper in an axial direction thereof, and the driving gear wheel including a borehole having a diameter which reduces with increasing depth complementarily to the taper of the roller mandrel.

However, Thole teaches in Fig. 1 and page 4 lines 7 – 10 and page 5 lines 4 – 11: a roller mandrel (1) at the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) having a taper (clearly illustrated) in an axial direction thereof, and a coupling element (9)

including a borehole (11) having a diameter which reduces with increasing depth complementarily (page 4 lines 7 – 10) to the taper of the roller mandrel (1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the mandrel and the complementary coupling element such as the driving gear wheel of AAPA to have the taper and a borehole as recited in the claim and taught by Thole for the purpose of permitting the mandrel to be easily and quickly replaced while maintaining simultaneously good centering and accurate axial orientation.

With respect to Claim 9, AAPA teaches: wherein the borehole (at 14) is the receiving location of the coupling device (7).

With respect to Claim 10, Thole teaches: wherein the taper of the roller mandrel (1) is conical (clearly illustrated).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 9/30/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
8. Applicant argues that Thole does not disclose a replaceable roller mandrel or shaft (1) and that the mandrel or shaft (1) is not shown or explained to be replaceable. This argument is not persuasive. The word "replaceable" means capable of being replaced. A printing apparatus and any of its elements can be replaced. The word "replaceable" does not result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and Thole. Since the shaft (1) of Thole is capable of being replaced, it meets the claim.

In response to applicant's argument that Thole does not disclose a coupling device which receives the coupling location of the roller mandrel, this argument is not persuasive. Thole clearly discloses in Fig. 1 and page 5 lines 4 – 11: a coupling device (4) which receives the coupling location (exterior of the conical end 23) of the roller mandrel (1) on a receiving location (11).

In response to applicant's argument that Reference of Thole does not disclose mandrel or the coupling device is tapered in the axial direction, this argument again is not persuasive. Thole clearly discloses (in page 5 lines 9 – 11): the roller mandrel (1) or the coupling device (4) is tapering (page 4 lines 7 - 10) in the axial direction (conical axial bore 11).

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yuan L. Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-3799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Judy Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2854

/yc/